

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 5 is an isometric view of a distal end ~~124~~ of an endoscope assembly 200 in accordance with an alternate embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, the sheath assembly 240 includes an enclosed end cap 246 that encloses the working end 26 of the insertion tube 22. The end cap 246 may be fabricated separately from the tubular body portion 242 of the sheath assembly 240 and then attached to the body portion 242 by a suitable attachment means, or it may be integrally formed with the tubular body portion 242 as disclosed, for example, in co-pending, commonly owned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/235,355, or in the above-referenced patent to Saab.